



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS VELLA GULF (CG 72)
FLEET POST OFFICE
AE 09590-1192

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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From: Commanding Officer, USS VELLA GULF (CG 72)
To: Director of Naval History (N09BH)

Subj: USS VELLA GULF (CG 72) COMMAND HISTORY FOR 2002

Ref (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12F Command Histories

Encl (1) USS VELLA GULF (CG 72) 2002: Command History
(2) USS VELLA GULF (CG 72) 3 1/2 Disk of Command History
(3) USS VELLA GULF (CG 72) CD Digital Images

1. Per reference (a), USS VELLA GULF calendar year 2002 Command History is provided in enclosures (1) through (3).

(b) (6)

R. M. RIKARD, JR.

USS VELLA GULF (CG 72)
COMMAND HISTORY 2002

1. COMMAND COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION:

Captain R. A. Feckler, Commanding Officer (JAN), Captain R. M. Rikard, Jr., Commanding Officer (FEB-DEC), Commander J. S. Wolstenholme, Executive Officer (JAN), Lieutenant Commander (b) (6), Executive Officer (JAN-DEC). VELLA GULF completed a highly successful deployment in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. Successfully passed a number of major readiness and training inspections and completed a significant repair availability in 2002. VELLA GULF is presently preparing for future operations in 2003, ready today, to serve our Navy and our Nation around the globe in any capacity assigned.

2. CHRONOLOGY

01-31 JAN 02: DEPLOYMENT / OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM
01-28 FEB 02: DEPLOYMENT / OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM
01-31 MAR 02: DEPLOYMENT / OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM / PDLVUPK
01-30 APR 02: PDLVUPK / FMAV
01-31 MAY 02: WEAPONS OFF-LOAD / PVST BOSTON MA / INSURV PREPARATION
01-30 JUN 02: INSURV
01-31 JUL 02: DRY DOCK AVAILABILITY AND REPAIRS NEWPORT NEWS VA
01-31 AUG 02: DRY DOCK AVAILABILITY AND REPAIRS NEWPORT NEWS VA
01-30 SEP 02: DRY DOCK AVAILABILITY AND REPAIRS NEWPORT NEWS VA / POST DRY DOCK FLEET MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY / SAFE TO STEAM REVIEW
01-30 OCT 02: POST DRY DOCK FLEET MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY / AVCERT / CART II PREPARATION / SMA
01-30 NOV 02: JTFEX OPFOR / BASIC SHIP'S TRAINING EXERCISES / PVST MIAMI FLORIDA
01-31 DEC 02: CART II / INITIAL ASSESMENT / HOLIDAY LEAVE AND STAND-DOWN

3. NARRATIVE

01-31 JAN 02: DEPLOYMENT / OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

01 JAN 02 MWR NBA All stars visit ship. Swim call held in the North Arabian Sea.

02 JAN 02 5" Gun, CIWS and SCAT live firing exercise.

03 JAN 02 Underway replenishment.

06 JAN 02 Strait of Hormuz transit. Awards ceremony and Captain's Call.

07 JAN 02 Lieutenant Commander (b) (6), assumes duties as Executive Officer from Commander (b) (6).

08 JAN 02 Underway replenishment.

09-10 JAN 02 Damage Control seminar.

11 JAN 02 5" Gun, CIWS and SCAT live firing exercise.

12 JAN 02 Damage Control Olympic's.

13-16 JAN 02 Inport Manama, Bahrain.

14-15 JAN 02 #2 Gas Turbine Generator change out. MCPO (b) (6), MCPON, ship visit.

17 JAN 02 Strait of Hormuz transit.

18 JAN 02 5" Gun, CIWS and SCAT live firing exercise.

20 JAN 02 Awards ceremony and Captain's Call. Captain R. M. Rikard, Jr., Perspective Commanding Officer arrives.

21 JAN 02 Underway replenishment. Martin Luther King remembrance.

22 JAN 02 5" Gun, CIWS and SCAT live firing exercise.

23 JAN 02 Carrier Air Wing ONE detect-to-engage exercise.

24 JAN 02 Helicopter Support Light ELEVEN deck landing qualifications.

25 JAN 02 Turn-over Commander, Task Force 50 Air Defense Commander Duties (XW).

26 JAN 02 Stream NIXIE and TACTAS USW equipment.

27 JAN 02 MWR "Men Overboard" concert on the ship.

28 JAN 02 Change of Command, Captain R. M. Rikard, Jr. assumes duties as Commanding Officer from Captain R. A. Feckler.

Underway replenishment.

01-28 FEB 02: DEPLOYMENT / OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

02 FEB 02 Integrated Training Team scenario and General Quarters drill.

03 FEB 02 Assume duties as Maritime Interdiction / Leadership Interdiction (MIO/LIO) support ship. Underway replenishment.

04 FEB 02 MWR "Super Bowl" party.

06-09 FEB 02 Boarding team readiness assessment and training.

09 FEB 02 Integrated Training Team scenario and General Quarters drill.

12 FEB 02 5" Gun, CIWS and SCAT live firing exercise.

15 FEB 02 Integrated Training Team scenario and General Quarters drill. Underway replenishment.
16 FEB 02 5" Gun, CIWS and SCAT live firing exercise.
16-19 FEB 02 Non-compliant boarding, take-down and seizure of Iraqi oil smuggler MV Lina.
21 FEB 02 Underway replenishment.
22 FEB 02 Safety stand-down.
23 FEB 02 Strait of Hormuz transit with USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT. Junior Officer Shiphandling evaluation.
24-28 FEB 02 Inport Manama, Bahrain.
28 FEB 02 Strait of Hormuz transit with USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

01-31 MAR 02: DEPLOYMENT / OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM / PDLVUPK

02 MAR 02 Integrated Training Team scenario and General Quarters drill.
03 MAR 02 Awards ceremony and Captain's Call. 5" Gun, CIWS and SCAT live firing exercise.
04 MAR 02 Carrier Air Wing ONE "Air Power" demonstration.
05 MAR 02 Bab El Mandeb transit.
06 MAR 02 Underway replenishment.
08 MAR 02 Suez Canal transit. Chop to SIXTH FLEET.
09 MAR 02 5" Gun, CIWS and SCAT live firing exercise.
10 MAR 02 Underway replenishment.
11-15 MAR 02 INPT Valletta, Malta.
11 MAR 02 U.S Embassy reception on the flight deck.
13 MAR 02 Community relations project to Holy Family Home for Children.
14 MAR 02 Malta Sea Cadet exchange lecture and tour.
17 MAR 02 Underway replenishment.
18 MAR 02 Strait of Gibraltar transit. Chop to SECOND FLEET.
20 MAR 02 5" Gun "Fire for Effect" exercise.
23 MAR 02 Rear Admiral Fitzgerald, TRBATGRU, visit. 5" Gun, CIWS and SCAT live firing exercise.
24 MAR 02 Photo exercise with THEODORE ROOSEVELT Battle Group units.
25 MAR 02 Return from deployment. VIP / Media embark WTKR and Navy News observe flag raising ceremony and homecoming.
27 MAR-25 APR 02 Post over seas movement leave and stand-down.
28 MAR 02 Helicopter Anti-submarine Support Squadron Light FORTY-EIGHT Detachment FIVE departs the ship.

01-30 APR 02: PDLVUPK / FMAV

6-8 APR 02 VELLA GULF combat ensign flag raising ceremony at Animal Kingdom, Walt Disney World Orlando, Florida.
09-14 APR 02 #2B Main Gas Turbine Engine change out.
26 APR 02 Fast cruise.
29-30 APR 02 Underway Virginia Capes Operating Area.

30 APR - 03 May 02 Inport Naval Weapons station Yorktown, Virginia.

01-31 MAY 02: WEAPONS OFF-LOAD / PVST BOSTON MA / INSURV PREPARATION

3 MAY 02 Family day cruise from Yorktown, Virginia to Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia.
06-10 MAY Pre-aviation inspection assessment.
08 MAY 02 Awards ceremony and Captain's Call.
10 MAY 02 Rear Admiral Fitzgerald, TRBATGRU, tour and luncheon.
14 MAY 02 Board of Inspection and Survey pier side inspection preparation.
15-17 MAY 02 Underway Virginia Capes Operating Area, Board of Inspection and Survey at sea inspection preparation and transit.
16 MAY 02 At sea Engineering, Combat System and Deck demonstrations.
17-20 MAY Inport Boston, Massachusetts.
17 MAY 02 VIP/Media embark and tours.
18 MAY 02 VELLA GULF Honor Guard presents opening colors at Fen way Park.
20-22 MAY 02 Underway Virginia Capes Operating Area, Board of Inspection and Survey at sea inspection preparation and transit.
20 MAY 02 Air warfare detect-to-engage, underwater detect to engage, engineering underway testing.
21 MAY 02 5" Gun, CIWS and SCAT live firing exercise.
30 MAY 02 Commander, Carrier Group EIGHT Change of Command held on VELLA GULF.

01-30 JUN 02: INSURV

19-20 JUN 02 Underway Virginia Capes Operating Area, Board of Inspection and Survey at sea inspection preparation.
24-28 JUN 02 Successfully completed Board of Inspection and Survey final inspection.

01-31 JUL 02: DRY DOCK AVAILABILITY AND REPAIRS NEWPORT NEWS VA

01 JUL 02 Underway transit to Newport News Ship Yard, Newport News, Virginia.
02 JUL 02 Dry-dock selected restricted availability arrival conference. Integrated Logistic Organizational in-brief.
03 JUL 02 Commence ship move to berthing barge.
10 JUL 02 Enter dry-dock.
16 JUL 02 Start Fleet Maintenance Availability.
17-19 JUL 02 Marine Safety International Shiphandling trainer.
18 JUL 02 Small Arms range firing.

01-31 AUG 02: DRY DOCK AVAILABILITY AND REPAIRS NEWPORT NEWS VA

01-19 AUG 02 Commanding Officers Assessment of Readiness and Training II command review.
06-09 AUG 02 Combat Systems Operational Sequencing System team training.
08 AUG 02 Battle of VELLA GULF remembrance ceremony.
17 AUG 02 MWR command summer picnic.
30 AUG 02 Damage Control Olympics. Awards ceremony and Captain's Call.

01-30 SEP 02: DRY DOCK AVAILABILITY AND REPAIRS NEWPORT NEWS VA / POST DRY DOCK FLEET MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY / SAFE TO STEAM REVIEW

01-19 SEP 02 Initial and safe to steam assessment main space fire and engineering team training.
11 SEP 02 9/11 Flag raising ceremony at Indian River High School. Admiral Dawson, SECOND FLEET, visit, tour and reception.
12-15 SEP 02 Move off berthing barge on to ship.
13 SEP 02 Undock the ship.
15-25 SEP 02 Combat systems light-off and systems testing. Engineering light-off and safe to steam assessment.
24 SEP 02 Fast cruise.
26-27 SEP 02 Sea trials.
27 SEP 02 Inport Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia.

01-30 OCT 02: POST DRY DOCK FLEET MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY / AVCET / CART II PREPARATION / SMA

01-16 OCT 02 Post repair availability and fleet maintenance availability.
09-10 Small Arms range firing.
11 OCT 02 Navy birthday celebration and awards ceremony.
15-18 OCT 02 Successfully completed the Supply Management Assessment (SMA).
21-24 OCT 02 Successfully completed aviation facility certification inspection (AVCERT).
23-24 OCT 02 Successfully completed Tomahawk land attack team exercise.
25 OCT 02 Fast cruise.
28 OCT-5 NOV 02 Underway as opposition force in support of the HARRY S TRUMAN Battle Group Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX).
30 OCT 02 Engineering Training Team, Combat Systems Training Team and Damage Control Training Team exercises. Commanding Officers Assessment of Readiness and Training II preparations.
31 OCT 02 MWR Halloween Costume party.

01-30 NOV 02: JTFEX OPFOR / BASIC SHIP'S TRAINING EXERCISES / PVST MIAMI FLORIDA

04 NOV 02 SCAT live firing exercise.

01-06 Engineering Training Team, Combat Systems Training Team and Damage Control Training Team exercises. Commanding Officers Assessment of Readiness and Training II preparations.

07 NOV 02 Frocking, awards ceremony and Captain's call.

08-12 NOV 02 Inport Miami, Florida.

08 NOV 02 VIP/Media embark and tours. Navy league and civic leader reception on VELLA GULF.

09 NOV 02 VELLA Gulf Honor Guard presents opening colors at Miami Heat NBA Basketball game.

12-14 NOV 02 Underway Virginia Capes Operating Area at sea Commanding Officers Assessment of Readiness and Training II preparations.

14 NOV 02 SCAT live firing exercise.

18-21 NOV 02 Afloat Training Group engineering team training.

20-21 NOV 02 Successfully completed Tomahawk land attack team exercise.

21 NOV 02 Completed Integrated Training Team Commanding Officers Assessment of Readiness and Training II preparation.

22 NOV 02 Twenty-three VELLA GULF Sailors conduct a group re-enlistment on board USS WISCONSIN.

01-31 DEC 02: CART II / INITIAL ASSESSMENT / HOLIDAY LEAVE AND STAND-DOWN

02 DEC 02 Multi tactical link exercise.

02-05 DEC 02 Successfully completed engineering Initial Assessment.

04 DEC 02 Commanding Officers Assessment of Readiness and Training II watchstander examinations.

11-13 DEC 02 Successfully completed Commanding Officers Assessment of Readiness and Training II.

13 DEC 02 Family service center Holiday Blues ship briefings.

13-27 DEC 02 First holiday leave and stand-down.

27 DEC 02-11 JAN 02 Second holiday leave and stand-down.

4. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS.

None.